Delhi on February 13, 1989, suggested that agriculture should be given priority in the Eighth Plan and efforts should be made to create jobs in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The National Conference on Planning Experience was held in New Delhi on 11th and 12th February, 1989. Among various issues discussed, the suggestions of giving priority to agriculture and creating jobs in rural areas was also made by some of the participants. These suggestions will be kept in view while preparing the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Gaps in the Country's Electronics Plan

2168. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the gaps in the country's electronics plan;

(b) what are the precise programme launched by Government so far for the development of technology within the country and what is the achievement;

(c) whether any clear cut long term policy relating to the development of capabilities in electronics technology has been laid down by the Government; if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor stating the steps contemplated by Government to formulate a broader long term policy of maximising engineering, technological and R and D inputs for the speedy growth of electronics industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has constituted a study team for preparation of the 8th five year plan with a view to developing R and D capabilities in identifying thrust areas in electronics. The study team is expected to submit its report shortly.

Department of Electronics has three councils for identifying technology gaps and initiating efforts to bridge the same through indigenous research and development. These are: Technology Development Council (TDC), National Radar Council (NRC) and National Microelectronics Council (NMC) and Council for Development of Materials Electronics (CDOME). TDC is responsible for technology development in the areas of computers and computer communication, control and instrumentation, consumer electronics, electronics components and voice communication. It has set up working groups in all these areas which identifies the technology gaps and make recommendations to TDC on undertaking specific R and D projects. NRC which is responsible for technology development in radar and allied areas has funded a number of projects. NMC is responsible for implementing the technology development and manufacture in the area of microelectronics. Nineteen projects have been initiated on the recommendations of two working groups in the areas of computer aids for micro electronics and microelectronic technology. CDOME has been recently created to give a thrust to R and D programmes for the development of materials in electronics.

In additions major technology development programmes have been initiated recently in the area of parallel processing architectures for the development of computers in the super computer performance range. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing has been set up at Pune for this purpose. Centre for Development of Teelmatics is another effort for development in indigenous R and D for the development of digital super technology. A number of other programmes for developing technology include:—

Appropriate Automation Promotion Frogramme, Microelectronics Engineering Programme, Knowledge Based Computer System Developent Programme Society for Applied Mocrowave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) CASE, SECO Programmes.

(c) and (d) As mentioned above there is constant effort by Government and other agencies to maximise engineering, technological and R and D input for the speedy growth of electronic industry in the framework of the five year plans.

Reports to Educate the People against Radiation Risks

2169. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the cities surrounding the Narora Atomic Plant;

(b) what efforts have been made by Government to educate the people on radiation risks to provide adequate information and training to civil administration of the surrounding areas besides providing adequate fire fighting equipment in the region to meet any eventuality; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for the disposal of the low, intermediate and high level radis active waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There are no cities having a population of more than 1 lakh as per 1981 Census within 30 km radius around Narora Plant. Aligarh is the nearest city at a radial distance of about 40 km from the plant.

(b) Steps have been taken by the Project authorities to educate villagers around Narora Atomic Power Plant (NAPP) and train district officials on radiation and emergency preparedness in case of accidents, contractors employees hailing from the villages around NAPP have been trained in protection against radiation. Education of village Pradhans and Sarpanchs has been taken up along with civil defence training and is being organised on a continuing basis. The plant is equipped with adequate fire protection systems and equipment to meet any contingencies apart from measures for preventing fire. The operation of the plant will not pose fire hazard in the public domain.

(c) The basic philosophy of radioactive waste management is to concentrate and contain as much radio activity as possible and discharge only those streams that have activity far below the authorised limits which confirm to internationally accepted values. The operation of nuclear power plants produces mostly low and intermediate level wastes for which a waste management plant is provided at the plan. Technology for treatment and disposal/storage of these wastes is already in use at various nuclear facilities meeting all stringent stipulations of environmental protection. Concentrated wastes after immobilisation in cement are buried for safe leak tight containment within the plant boundary. High level